

# CAREER FOCUS

## *Supervisors—thanks for your continued support during ALS*

BY MASTER SGT.  
DAVID HALVORSON  
TEAM KIRTLAND  
career assistance advisor

### Dear Supervisor,

At sometime or another, each of us faces the challenge of preparing an airman for attendance in Airman Leadership School.

We know we'll have to schedule many work tasks around their five-week absence from the work center, and although it can be somewhat difficult and definitely an inconvenience, be assured their time spent in ALS is well worth the sacrifice.

But what's the payback to the Air Force? What exactly is the much-touted return on investment for this type of training?

When your Airman returns to your duty section he or she will have spent 180 hours of focused study in three specific areas: Profession of Arms, Communications and Leadership.

Each area of study contributes significantly to the personal and professional development of an individual and is part of a long and proven educational process envied by the academic community.

The course is designed to provide students with critical knowledge and skills required to become an effective supervisor and rating official. It is a hands-on, comprehensive course, fused with many different exercises and role-playing activities which enhance lesson objectives.

In combination, this process provides practical experience to reinforce the skills required of an effective supervisor. Realism is paramount to their retention of course materials, and this is achieved by providing up-to-date information, practical exercises, and firsthand experience relevant to the first-level supervisor.

Of course the true measure of success comes with real-world application of these skills, and this is where you, the supervisor, take on the role of instructor, mentor and guide. By continuing the growth and development of your airmen after graduation from ALS, you can delegate certain tasks and thus free yourself to focus on other mission concerns.

We all need to develop and train our



Master Sgt. David Halvorson

replacements, and in the end the return on our investment is immeasurable.

Yes, you benefit from ALS with better-trained, better-educated Airmen, and the Airmen benefit as well! In addition to being more capable leaders and communicators, successful completion of ALS now results in the award of nine semester hours of college credit from the Community College of the Air Force.

Kirtland AFB's ALS opens up each class with a Coffee and Bagel Get-Together. This is an opportunity for the supervisors and first sergeants of new students to join in for a few minutes to "kick things off."

The next time one of your airmen is enrolled, be sure to join him or her.

Today's ALS is no doubt very different from the one you attended, and you'll be pleasantly surprised. And, since you're getting your airman started off on the right foot, why not plan to attend the graduation where we celebrate the grand achievements of many individuals who will merge to form a single team.

Students will gain further insight of a noncommissioned officer's perspective, and your support of activities like graduation reflects the dedication the students put forth throughout the course. Each of you should proudly share in the success and professional accomplishment of the students.

Your enthusiasm and willingness to prepare them for ALS illustrates a desire to provide your work center, unit and Air Force with quality supervisors and leaders.

It's Professional Military Education that makes tomorrow's leaders today—and it's today's leaders who prepare the way for those who follow.

## Command Chief's Choice



Airman 1st Class Jose Jimenez Jr.

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The Command Chief's Choice for Excellence this week is Airman 1st Class Jose Jimenez Jr., 58th Operations Support Squadron.

#### What do you like best about this assignment?

The best part of this assignment are the wonderful, hardworking people I work with. Everyone in the 58th Operations Support Squadron, gets their job done in an efficient, energetic and friendly way. And the people I work with in my shop make me feel like a valuable member of an excellent team.

#### What are your hobbies?

Well, with a full load of college courses at UNM and a full-time job, I don't get much time for hobbies. On those rare occasions when things slow down I like to catch up on sleep, visit family and friends, or just pop in a DVD, kick back and relax.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I would definitely like to have a wife and young child. As far as a career, possibly a special agent in the FBI, or maybe an officer in the great U.S. Air Force.

#### What is your main goal in life?

To be a productive member of society, a loving figure to my family and friends and to make others laugh. A day without laughter is a day wasted.



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**Nucleus is on the Web**  
at [www.kirtland.af.mil](http://www.kirtland.af.mil)

**E-mail articles only**  
to 377ABW.NUCLEUS  
@kirtland.af.mil

**Editorial:** 846-4235.

### Submission deadline

9 a.m. the Friday  
before publication.  
Deadlines change  
for holidays.

### Advertising deadlines

**Classified:**  
Tuesday, noon,  
892-9400  
or [observerclass@attglobal.net](mailto:observerclass@attglobal.net)

**Display:**  
Friday, 5 p.m.,  
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# FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240

## Fitness center daycare

I am a stay-at-home Mom and I was wondering if there was ever any thought of putting in childcare at the fitness centers?

I would like to make use of the exercise facilities but don't want to spend a fortune in daycare for an hour or two a week.

This is an idea with great potential. In fact, your comments are very timely, as we expect our Air Force to release guidance in the next 60 days or so on how to implement this concept.

Informed by that guidance, our concept will likely be to build a parent-child workout area in the East Fitness Center where parents can exercise in the rear of the room while their children are in a play area at the front of the room.

Parents could maintain visual contact with their child and be responsible for their supervision.

In the meantime, we hope you can find time in your schedule to use our fitness centers while taking advantage of drop-in hourly childcare at the Maxwell and Gibson Child Development Centers. It's only \$3 an hour for a minimum of two hours and is open to you on a space-available basis.

You can contact the Maxwell CDC at 853-5521 or the Gibson CDC at 846-2698.

If you need additional information on fitness center programs, please call Dan McDermott, Fitness Center director, 846-5100.

## VA Medical Cards not for Commissary

Reference the article in the Dec. 19 Nucleus regarding the use of Veterans Affairs Medical Cards as identification to make purchases at Army and Air Force Exchanges: Perhaps the reply provided by



**COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.**  
377th Air Base Wing commander

Kirtland AFB to the effect that such cards do not entitle the holders to make purchases at the BX should also apply to Commissary purchases.

We have observed the use of VA Medical Cards as identification to make purchases at the Commissary on many occasions as well.

The duty to diligently check identification cards, coupled with the policy of tacitly allowing relatives, neighbors and friends of identification card holders to indirectly make purchases at commissaries, clearly suggests that the preservation and protection of earned military benefits is not a priority at stores that are supposed to be patronized only by those to have "earned the privilege."

Thank you for contacting the Forum with your concerns. Shopping at the Commissary is certainly a privilege reserved for those who have

earned it.

The cashiers working at the Commissary receive initial training on authorized identification cards upon hiring and recurring training periodically throughout the year. They are required to perform a 100 percent identification check prior to beginning a sales transaction and allow only authorized patrons to purchase items.

While the Commissary allows family and friends to accompany authorized shoppers, only the individual with a valid identification card may make purchases. A "VA Medical Card" is not acceptable.

The Kirtland AFB Commissary staff is dedicated to protecting and preserving one of your most valued benefits and will continue to provide training on this topic to all employees.

## Retired civilians

As a retired government civilian employee, I would like to know what benefits I have and what facilities I may use at Kirtland AFB or on other military bases?

Then, I need assistance in obtaining my "pictured" retired government identification card or a vehicle decal allowing me access to the base to take advantage of the benefits and facilities.

It's important for you to have an official document that shows you are a retired Air Force civilian employee, such as an SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, for the Civilian Personnel Flight to issue an application for an identification card.

Air Force instruction 36-3026, allows us to issue you (as a retired Air Force civilian employee) an identification card for an indefinite period of time. We can also provide your eligible family members an identification card for a period of up to four years or until they no longer meet the definition of dependent, whichever is earlier.

"Eligible" family members include your spouse and an unmarried dependent child under 22 years old. This includes an adopted child or recognized natural child; a step-

child or foster child who resides with you in a regular parent-child relationship; or an unmarried dependent child, regardless of age, who is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical disability that existed before age 23.

You and your family may use our Auto Skills Center, Bowling Center, Golf Course, FamCamp, Fitness Centers, Motor Vehicle Division, Library, Outdoor Recreation, Riding Stables, Swimming Pools, Skills Development Center, the Base Exchange Food Court, and Information, Tickets and Travel. The U.S. Post Office, chapel, parks, and tracks may also be used. On a space available basis and by priority, you can also use the Youth Center and Child Development Centers.

These facilities are available to you and other retired Air Force civil servants in gratitude for your years of dedication to the Department of Air Force. If you have any additional questions, please contact the 377th Mission Support Squadron, Civilian Personnel Flight, 846-0606, or the 377th Services Squadron, 846-7428.

## Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

## Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691  
CE Help Desk, 846-8222  
Commissary, 846-9586  
Computer help, 846-5926  
Energy wasting, 846-4633  
Exchange Service, 266-9887  
Family Services, 846-0741  
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639  
Law Enforcement, 846-7926  
Legal Services, 846-4217  
Medical Clinic, 846-3406  
Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117